

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Fire Island National Seashore

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: FIIS

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Fire Island National Seashore will be the premiere Seashore in the Country highlighting shared stewardship among its many partners, communities, and stakeholders. it will do this through sound, science based research for natural and cultural resources; redesigning its aging facilities to be sustainable and flexible in the face of great changes and pressures from rising sea level rise and climate change; and will create a dynamic education program that reaches not only the visitor on the Island but in the communities and classrooms of the New York region. Fire Island will also strive to be an employer of choice offering innovative and diverse opportunities for its staff and attracting new employees that represent a wide diversity of backgrounds and skill sets. A key vision is for Fire Island to move into a framework of collaboration rather than conflict with the many private, commercial, and public interests within and around the boundary of the Seashore while managing and protecting the resources as varied as sensitive ocean resources, endangered species, and threatened habitats to the highest standards.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Michael T. Reynolds, Superintendent/ Sean McGuinness Deputy Superintendent

Site: FIIS

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Fire Island will increase the diversity of boat access points with a year round service ability and a new center of transportation and orientation on the mainland.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

The William Floyd Estate will continue to be preserved and restored.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

Invasives will be managed and controlled within the wilderness area and William Floyd Estate as needed. The endangered piping plover breeding program will be enhanced and productivity will rise by 2%.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park will conduct an ocean stewardship strategy to understand, interpret and manage the vast water and ocean resources within the boundary that are currently and historically not a part of existing programs. These resources actually make up 75% of the park area within the boundary.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Encourage children to be future conservationists.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Create a junior ranger program that touches schools throughout Long Island.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Fire Island will convert its buildings and work with the concessionaire to convert to solar energy and will reduce all garbage use by 25% through innovative source reduction programs like eliminating bottles from sales at marinas.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

☒ Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Fire Island will convert the historic lighthouse to solar energy and all park facilities within 10 years.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Fire Island will work with its 17 communities, adjacent State Park, and county park lands within its boundaries to manage the coastal resources, beaches, and sensitive barrier island habitats through the comprehensive plans and programs from the Fire Island to Montauk Point study and other resources to have natural processes restored and supporting coastal and beach policies and programs that benefit residences in communities and the park resources.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

RECREATION

☒ Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Fire Island will further integrate the adjacent State Park lands and the County Park within the boundary into a seamless visitor use area with better interpretation linkages, upgraded visitor center at the wilderness area/county park site, and create shared management responsibilities where possible.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

RECREATION

☒ Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.

☒ Increase annual volunteer hours by 100 percent, from 5.2 million hours to 10.4 million hours.

Fire Island will increase its volunteer hours by 10% in ten years.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

RECREATION

☒ Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Fire Island will sign agreements with local Long Island school districts to create curriculum and field experiences on Fire Island for grades 4 on through High School.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Fire Island will create new interpretive programs that involve more family oriented activities such as hikes in off season periods as well as summer.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

EDUCATION

☒ Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Fire Island would like to create a series of lesson plans that can be used by teachers and create a meta-institute of partnerships among the various museums in the area to provide up to week long programs for kids that involve environmental education using Fire Island's resources such as the Lighthouse along with local museums and non profits to create a broad partnership institute program for schools.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

EDUCATION

☒ Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

☒ Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

Fire Island's website will grow in size by 20% providing more video, sound, and movie selections as well as chat room type links with live ranger talks online.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

EDUCATION

☒ Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

☒ Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

Fire Island will increase its junior ranger program to be year round and in the marinas where many kids are in the summer.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

EDUCATION

☒ Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

☒ Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

Fire Island will provide waysides along with its partners in each community, ferry dock, and in facilities and beach entrances that highlight visitors are in a national park and what it offers. This hardly exists at all in most of the island area.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Be one of the top 10 places to work in America.

☒ Meet 100 percent of diversity recruitment goals by employing people who reflect the face of America.

Fire Island will increase its diversity hiring ability by participating in minority youth programs that help recruit and work with local community leaders and schools to establish internships.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Attain the highest employee satisfaction rate of all federal agencies, as measured by Office of Personnel Management surveys.

Fire Island will strive for increasing its satisfaction rate by better employee training and communication to help employees grow.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

☒ Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

Fire Island will focus on safety as a high priority for employees by creating a new safety advisory team with consistent messaging and meetings. A new safety officer will be designated.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Model what it means to work in partnership.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Fire Island will create a set of working agreements with communities that will offer shared leadership of the island area and will work to be a model of cooperation in the National Park Service for private lands and public land management to resolve conflicts. It will finish a GMP within 5 years to lay out this program.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FIIS

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.

☒ Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.

Fire Island will create a friends group with broad membership and appeal that fits both the summer and year round populations. This group will increase philanthropic giving by 75% from current levels in 10 years.

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